

## COLLECTING AT WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, AND SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA

By E. L. BELL

FLUSHING, N. Y.

The rediscovery of *Problema bulenta* Boisduval and LeConte at Wilmington, North Carolina, by Mr. F. M. Jones, of Wilmington, Delaware, an account of which he has published in *Entomological News*, XXXVII, no. 7, pages 193-196, July, 1926, led me to make a trip to that city during the first part of July, 1926.

The city of Wilmington, with a population of approximately 42,000, is situated in New Hanover County, well known toward the South Carolina line; it was one of the earliest settlements of the British colonists and, with the surrounding country, was the scene of many historic events during the Revolution and the Civil War. About twenty miles south of the city stood Fort Fisher, which kept the port of Wilmington open for the Confederacy during the Civil War. It was attacked by fifty-five warships during the latter part of December, 1864, and though only a mound of sand, it withstood the greatest bombardment in the history of the world up to that time. On January 13, 1865, it was again attacked by fifty-eight warships and 10,000 men, capitulating two days later.

The excellent beaches make Wilmington a favorite playground for the greater part of the year. It is readily accessible by good motor routes and railways, and is but a few hours ride, by train, from New York. I left New York, via Pennsylvania Railroad, on the 3:50 P. M. train, Eastern Standard Time, changed cars at Washington, D. C., to the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, and arrived at Wilmington the following morning at 9:45, Eastern Standard Time, where I was joined that evening by my family who made the trip by the Old Dominion steamship line from New York to Norfolk, Va., bringing the motor car with them on the boat. From Norfolk the trip was made in the motor car, crossing the ferry to Portsmouth, Va., thence through Suffolk, Va., to

Sunbury, N. C., and then following North Carolina route 30, through various towns, to Wilmington, a distance of about 260 miles over good roads for most of the way. A few short stretches of poor roads and one long detour where the road was under construction were the only exceptions. \*

Upon our arrival at Wilmington, comfortable accommodations were secured at the Cape Fear Hotel, a short distance from the railroad station and but three blocks from the ferry over the Cape Fear River, which had to be used to reach the road on the west side of the river. This road runs for approximately two miles through a swamp and is bordered by a rank growth of water plants, rushes, etc. Back of this, for some distance after leaving the ferry, there is a dense jungle of trees and undergrowth of bushes, tall rushes and water plants, seemingly impenetrable; further along are the old rice fields, extensive open spaces with rank vegetation, into which no attempt was made to go, for if it were possible to find a footing there, the density and height of the vegetation would have prevented collecting. There were many *pontederias* in bloom along the roadside and these flowers, so attractive to insects, afforded the best collecting. A long-handled net was found to be necessary, as often the desired specimens rested on flowers out of reach, with the ordinary length of handle; as it was, wet feet was the rule. *Hesperiidae* were not plentiful, though the locality was seemingly so favorable; perhaps it was a little between seasons and a somewhat off year; the most plentiful species of *Hesperiidae* was *Poanes viator* Edwards, which visited the flowers but more often was found resting on the leaves or slowly flying well down among the plants, where it was difficult to capture, unless one waited for it to cross a comparatively open space; many of them were in poor condition but a reasonable number of quite good specimens were secured. *Poanes yehl* Skinner and *Atrytone dion* Edwards were scarcer and generally in poor condition. Probably about two weeks earlier would have found them at their best. They were taken exclusively on *pontederia* flowers; during several days collecting along this road but fourteen individuals of *Problema bulenta* Boisduval and LeConte were seen; of these several were captured, all on the *pontederias*; the bright yellow undersurface

renders them very conspicuous and easily identified and they are very easily captured when within reach of the net; a few specimens of other common southern species of *Hesperiidæ* were also taken along the road but even these were far from plentiful.

Many of the swamp denizens are killed on the road by the autos; numerous snakes, turtles and frogs were found crushed along its way; dragon-flies are also frequent victims, being struck and killed as they fly about over the roadway; rails clacked in the swamp and were sometimes seen crossing the road, while the wooded sections continuously rang with the songs and cries of other birds.

The collecting in the pine woods was also very poor; one small restricted area yielded several specimens of *Amblyscirtes alternata* Grote and Robinson and a few specimens of other species, the commonest species being *Thorybes daunus* Cramer; however, many seemingly favorable places yielded nothing; there were many and beautiful flowers, most of which did not seem to be attractive to insects; pitcher plants grew in abundance in the somewhat moist places, their yellowish clusters standing out conspicuously; quail were very plentiful in the woods and many were flushed while collecting there.

The marsh back of the beach at Fort Fisher was visited but nothing of interest in *Hesperiidæ* was taken; a few specimens of *Phyciodes phaon* Edwards were collected here, a species not found in any of the other places visited around Wilmington; there were a great many *Cicindelidæ* on the beach, and a small species of *Cicada* in the bushes on the dunes, these latter, however, evaded my efforts to capture them.

The capture of *Amblyscirtes alternata* at Wilmington apparently extends northward the recorded range of that species.

After spending a pleasant week at Wilmington, we motored back to Suffolk, Virginia, and obtained accommodations at the Hotel Elliott, in that city. It was hoped that an opportunity would be afforded to do some collecting in the Great Dismal Swamp, but the weather prevented much being done. It was mostly cloudy with occasional showers and thunder-storms; two visits to the swamp were spoiled by thunder-storms occurring almost simultaneously with the arrival at the collecting-grounds,

however in the few minutes spent there on the last occasion, one specimen of *Poanes yehl* Skinner and one specimen of *Epiphyes carolina* Skinner, were taken; the specimen of *carolina* is apparently the typical form and not the form *reversa* Jones, the type of which was collected at this locality by Mr. Jones. A little collecting was done along the railroad track and at Lake Prince Reservoir; butterflies were scarce, however, though somewhat more plentiful than at Wilmington.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. F. M. Jones for much valuable help in the way of data as to collecting grounds, etc., which enabled me to do a great deal more than would have been possible without it, in the short time at my disposal.

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#### THE ENTOMOLOGY OF HAKLUYT'S "VOYAGES," I

"We were also oftentimes greatly annoyed with a kind of flie, which in the Indian tongue is called Tequani, and the Spaniards called them Muskitos. There are also in the sayd countrey a number of other kinde of flies, but none so noysome as these Tequanies bee: you shall hardly see them they be so small, for they are scarse so big as a gnat; they will sucke ones blood marvellously, and if you kill them while they are sucking, they are so venomous that the place will swell extremely, even as one that is stong with a Waspe or Bee: but if you let them sucke their fill, and to goe away of themselves, then they doe you no other hurt, but leave behinde them a red spot somewhat bigger then a flea-biting. At the first wee were terribly troubled with these kinde of flies, not knowing their qualities, and resistance wee could make none against them, being naked." (From "A Discourse written BY ONE MILES PHILIPS ENGLISHMAN One of the company put on shoare Northward of Panuco, in the West Indies by M. John Hawkins 1568, conteining many special things of that countrey and of the Spanish government, but specially of their cruelties used to our Englishmen, and amongst the rest to him selfe for the space of 15. or 16. yeres together, until by good and happy meanes he was delivered from their bloody hands, and returned into his owne Countrey. An. 1582.")—Ed.